

DOCKET NO.: 240512US6PCT



IFW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Yoichi YAGASAKI, et al.

SERIAL NO: 10/524,214

GROUP: 2613

FILED: February 10, 2005

EXAMINER:

FOR: VIDEO-INFORMATION ENCODING METHOD AND VIDEO-
INFORMATION DECODING METHOD

LETTER

Mail Stop DD
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith are a Singapore Search Report and Written Opinion for the Examiner's consideration. The reference cited therein has been previously filed on February 10, 2005.

Respectfully Submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.


Bradley D. Lytle

Registration No. 40,073

Customer Number

22850

Tel. (703) 413-3000
Fax. (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 03/06)

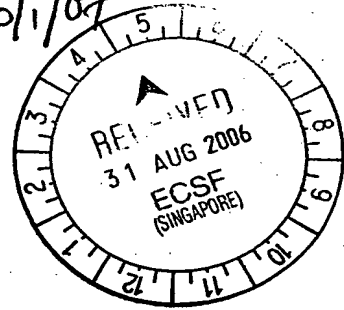
Joseph Scafetta, Jr.
Registration No. 26,803

RF 240

In Reply Please Quote Our Reference

Your Ref : 1481SG1389/MHK/HGC/AS
Our Ref : 2006026181/060830/TMBWW/5445
Date : 30/08/2006
Writer's Direct Line :

NO dd: 30/1/07



ELLA CHEONG SPRUSON & FERGUSON (SINGAPORE) PTE LTD
P.O. BOX 1531
ROBINSON ROAD POST OFFICE
SINGAPORE 903031

Dear Sir,

Singapore Patent Application No.: 200602618-1

Title of invention: VIDEO-INFORMATION ENCODING METHOD AND VIDEO-INFORMATION
DECODING METHOD

Applicant(s): SONY CORPORATION (JP)

INVITATION TO RESPOND TO WRITTEN OPINION

We forward with this letter a copy of the Search Report and Written Opinion drawn up by the Examiner in connection with your request for a Search and Examination Report.

You are invited to respond to the opinion by submitting:

- (a) Written submissions or arguments disagreeing with the Examiner's opinion and/or
- (b) An amendment of the specification of the application.

If you intend to respond, the response must be filed within 5 months from the date of this letter. You are also advised to inform us early if you do not intend to respond.

The Examiner will proceed to establish the Examination Report if no response is received by the end of the prescribed period.

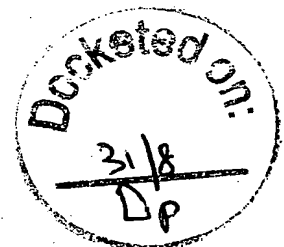
If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Boo Wei Wen

for REGISTRAR OF PATENTS
SINGAPORE



AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE

WRITTEN OPINION

		Date of mailing day/month/year		17 AUG 2006
Applicant's or agent's file reference 1481SG1389/MHK/HGC/AS		REPLY DUE within FIVE MONTHS of the date of the Registrar's letter enclosing the written opinion		
Application No. SG 200602618-1	Application Filing Date (day/month/year) 9 October 2003	Priority Date (day/month/year) 10 October 2002		
International Patent Classification (IPC) (as indicated in the search report) Int. Cl. G06T 9/00 (2006.01) H04N 7/30 (2006.01) H04N 7/50 (2006.01) Action Date: 11 August 2006				
Applicant SONY CORPORATION (JP)				

1. This first written opinion consists of a total of 4 sheets.
2. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:
 - I ☒ Basis of the opinion
 - II ☒ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 - III ☐ Lack of unity of invention
 - IV ☐ Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
 - V ☐ Certain documents cited
 - VI ☐ Certain defects in the application
 - VII ☒ Certain observations on the application
3. This opinion is based upon the assumption that the priority claim is valid.
4. The search report used was issued by the Australian Patent Office, and the date of completion is: 11 August 2006
5. If no reply is filed, the examination report will be established on the basis of this opinion.
6. The date by which the examination report will be established is: 10 January 2007

Name and mailing address AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au Facsimile no. 61 2 62853929	Authorized Officer DEREK BARNES
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I. Basis of the opinion

1. This opinion has been drawn on the basis of:

☒ the application as originally filed.

☐ the description, pages , as originally filed,
pages , filed with the request,
pages , received on with the letter of

☐ the claims, pages , as originally filed,
pages , filed with the request,
pages , received on with the letter of

☐ the drawings, sheets/fig. , as originally filed,
sheets/fig. , filed with the request,
sheets/fig. , received on with the letter of

☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
pages , as originally filed
pages , filed with the demand
pages , received on with the letter of

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: pages:
sheets of drawings/figures No :

3 ☐ This opinion has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box.

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

II. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been and will not be examined in respect of:

☒ the entire application,

☐ claims Nos:

because:

☐ the said application, or the said claim Nos. relate to the following non-patentable subject matter (section 13(3)) which does not require an examination (*specify*):

☐ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

☒ the claims are inadequately supported by the description.

☐ no search report has been established for said claim Nos.

VII. Certain observations on the application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

Claims 1 to 12 do not comply with the requirements of section 25(5)(c) of the Singapore Patents Act as they are not supported by the description.

Independent claim 1 for example defines "a conversion means for dividing image data into each of blocks and converting each of the divided blocks" and "an encoding means for encoding each of the divided blocks output from the conversion means" and "wherein the encoding means has the divided block of the image data". The description however does not appear to describe any of the underlined features.

Similarly independent claim 4 defines "an inverse converting means for converting a decoded bitstream" but the description does not appear to describe these features.

Independent claim 7 defines "a conversion step for dividing image data into each of blocks and converting each of the divided blocks" and "an encoding step for encoding each of the divided blocks output from the conversion step" and "wherein the encoding step has the divided block of the image data". The description however does not appear to describe any of the underlined features.

In addition independent claim 10 defines "an inverse converting step for converting a decoded bitstream" but the description does not appear to describe these features.

Therefore independent claims 1, 4, 7 and 10 and their appended claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 12 are not supported by the description and don't comply with the requirements of section 25(5)(c) of the Singapore Patents Act.

☒ The claimed invention is patentable according to Section 13(2); or

☐ The claimed invention is unpatentable according to Section 13(2) because:

AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE

SEARCH REPORT

Applicant's or agent's file reference 1481SG1389/MHK/HGC/AS		
Application No. SG 200602618-1	Application Filing Date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 9 October 2003	(Earliest) Priority Date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 10 October 2002
Applicant SONY CORPORATION (JP)		

This search report consists of a total of 4 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. ☒ Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I)

2. ☐ Unity of invention is lacking (See Box II)

3. ☐ The application contains disclosure of a nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing and the search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing

☐ filed with the application

☐ furnished by the applicant separately from the application,

☐ but not accompanied by a statement to the effect that it did not include matter going beyond the disclosure in application as filed

4. With regard to the title, ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Office to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract, ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant

☐ the text has been established by this Office as it appears in Box III

6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 1

☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure

☐ because this figure better characterises the invention

☐ None of the figures

AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE
SEARCH REPORT

Application No.

SG 200602618-1

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This search report has not been established in respect of certain claims for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.

because they relate to non-patentable subject matter (sections 13 and 16) not required to be searched by this Office, namely:

2. ☒ Claims Nos. 1 to 12

because they relate to parts of the application that does not comply with the prescribed requirements (sections 25(4) and 25(5)) to such an extent that no meaningful search can be carried out, specifically:

See the Supplemental Box for an explanation of how the claims do not comply with the prescribed requirements.

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This Office found multiple inventions in this application, as follows:

☒ Accordingly, this Office is reporting only on the first embodiment of the invention described at paragraphs [0061] - [0070], or

☐ Since little extra effort was involved, this Office is reporting on the inventions of claims

AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE

SEARCH REPORT

Application No.

SG 200602618-1

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

According to International Patent Classification (IPC)

Int. Cl.

G06T 9/00 (2006.01)

H04N 7/30 (2006.01)

H04N 7/50 (2006.01)

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5654702 A (XIAONONG RAN) 5 August 1997 Column 8 line 58, figure 7A	

☐

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C

☒

See patent family annex

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"&" document member of the same patent family

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

Date of submission of the request to the Australian Patent Office

13 June 2006

Date of completion of the search report

11 August 2006

Date of mailing of the search report

17 AUG 2006

Name and mailing address

AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE
PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA
E-mail address: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au
Facsimile No. 61 2 62853929

Authorised officer

DEREK BARNES

**SUPPLEMENTAL BOX
CONTINUATION OF BOX: 1**

Claims 1 to 12 do not comply with the requirements of section 25(5)(c) of the Singapore Patents Act as they are not supported by the description.

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